

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.
John W. Collette Education Resource Center – Conference Room A
35 Commerce Way
Dover, DE 19904

Minutes

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairperson Dr. Bradley Layfield.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Mike Breeding, Robert Cilento, Matt Donovan, Dr. Evelyn Edney, Vetra Evans-Gunther, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Bruce Harris, Mike Hart, Jeremy Jeanne, Ted Laws, Dr. Bradley Layfield, Chuck Little, Douglas Thompson, Stan Waterman, Robert Watson, and Michael Rodriguez, Associate Secretary of Education. Laura Makransky, Deputy Attorney General, Kevin Charles, DIAA Consultant, and DIAA staff Donna Polk and Amoscita Rodriguez were also in attendance. Dr. Kathleen Andrus was unable to attend.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Breeding and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no.

D. Approval of September 27, 2019 DIAA Board Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cilento made a motion to approve the September 27, 2019 DIAA Board Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no.

E. Approval of Minutes October 29, 2019 DIAA Board Special Meeting

Mr. Watson made a motion to approve the September 27, 2019 DIAA Board Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Little and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no.

F. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of DIAA October 29, 2019 Board Special Meeting

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the September 27, 2019 DIAA Board Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no.

G. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of DIAA November 14, 2019 Board Meeting

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the September 27, 2019 DIAA Board Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Donovan and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no.

H. Approval of Minutes of DIAA November 14, 2019 Board Meeting
Dr. Bley made a motion to approve the September 27, 2019 DIAA Board Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no.

I. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Charles reported that as of 11/30/19 DIAA income was \$104,000; expenses totaled \$304,000. DIAA budget currently in the red for \$200,000. This is typical this time of year, however the amount is a little larger due to the slow income of the DIAA membership dues.

Mr. Breeding made a motion to approve the Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Watson, and Waterman] and 0 no.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr., Charles reported that there was a total of 59 sanction events, all in compliance with the National Federation and DIAA regulations: 17 wrestling, 12 basketball tournaments, 28 indoor track, one field hockey, and one softball.

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the Tournament Sanction. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fitzgerald and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Watson, and Waterman] and 0 no.

B. Ratification of Interim Waivers

1. Request to waive 1009.2.4 Tower Hill – 2019-12-1

Mr. Laws made a motion to ratify the Executive Director's decision to grant a waiver. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 - [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no The student, the student's family, and the school were not required to appear at the Board's December meeting.

2. Request to waive 1009.2.4 Red Lion Christian Academy – 2019-12-2

Ms. Evans-Gunther made a motion to ratify the Executive Director's decision to grant a waiver. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 - [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no The student, the student's family, and the school were not required to appear at the Board's December meeting.

3. Request to waive 1009.2.4 Cape Henlopen – 2019-12-3

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to ratify the Executive Director's decision to grant a waiver. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a vote of 15 - [Bley, Breeding, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no. Mr. Cilento was recused. The student, the student's family, and the school were not required to appear at the Board's December meeting.

4. Request to waive 1009.2.4 Caesar Rodney – 2019-12-4

Ms. Evans-Gunther made a motion to ratify the Executive Director's decision to grant a waiver. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried by a vote of 15 - [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no. Dr. Fitzgerald was recused. The student, the student's family, and the school were not required to appear at the Board's December meeting.

5. Request to waive 1009.2.7 Seaford High School – 2019-12-5

Mr. Cilento made a motion to ratify the Executive Director's decision to grant a waiver. The motion was seconded by Mr. Little and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 - [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson] and 0 no. The student, the student's family, and the school were not required to appear at the Board's December meeting.

C. DAAD Girls' Golf Proposal

Mr. Hart, as representative for Delaware Association of Athletic Directors reported that DAAD has developed a series of three nine-hole tournaments for DIAA eligible high school girl golfers for the spring of 2020. These events will provide an opportunity for participation for girl golfers where they do not have to compete against boys in order to gain that opportunity. DAAD and Smyrna High School requested that the DIAA grant an exemption to the DIAA schools who chooses to send girls to this DAAD Spring Series. The exemption would be that these tournaments would not count as an event on a school's regular season schedules.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the waiver request to allow girls to participate without it counting against their school's allowable seasonal competitions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeanne and carried by a unanimous vote of 16 – yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Watson, and Waterman] and 0 no.

D. DAAD Proposal on Professional Development for State Athletic Directors

Bill Schultz informed that Board that DAAD would like to continue its efforts to train all new Athletic Directors and provide continued trainings for Ads. Their proposal consists of a budget in the amount of \$15,500. Dr. Layfield reminded the BOD that the DIAA current budget has only allocated \$10,000 for training/education; therefore, the DIAA budget would have to be amended to reflect an increase to \$15,500 and since it is not currently an agenda item the Board could not vote on it today.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve \$10,000 to DAAD for purpose of education/training of new Athletic Directors with the intent of amending the budget next month for an additional \$5,500. The motion was seconded by Mr. Laws and carried with a vote 14 yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman and Watson], and 0 No. Mr. Hart and Mr. Jeanne were recused.

Dr. Fitzgerald requested that the Rules and Regulation Committee make it a requirement that Athletic Directors of DIAA member schools complete the DAAD training.

Mr. Laws asked what if a school administrator wanted to complete the DADD training could they? Mr. Hart replied that yes, they could but they would have to pay to participate.

The program serves both middle and high school athletic directors.

E. Henlopen Conference request to waive 2020 Fall Start date

Nick Pickelow, Athletic Director from Sussex Tech informed the Board that they and schools from Cape Henlopen have a one-time request to schedule a football game one week before Labor Day.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to waive the Fall 2020 start date for Football. The vote carried with 14 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Little, Thompson, Watson, and Waterman], 1 No (Mr. Laws) and 1 abstention (Dr. Layfield).

F. Delaware Valley Classical School Request to Waive/Amend Member Dues

David Corbett, Athletic Director, from Delaware Valley Classical Schools informed the Board that DelVal currently has a total of 177 students in their K-12 school and based on this population the DIAA membership dues is \$750. This amount presents a financial hardship for the school.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to waive the late fee/sanctions that would begin on January 1st for Del Val. Motion seconded by Mr. Jeanne The motion carried unanimously 16 Yes and 0 no.

G. DIAA regulation 1006.3.0 Committee Membership

Mr. Charles informed the Board that currently the rules and regulations does not permit the DIAA Executive Director to be a voting member of committees. This is concerning because the Executive Director normally attends and participates in all committee meetings.

Ms. Makransky will draft language for proposed changes to regulations and discuss in January.

Dr. Fitzgerald left the meeting at 11:10 am.

H. Coaching Out of Season, Transfer, and Realignment Rules Proposal from Board Member

Mr. Thompson asked that the Board review how California handles coaching out of season. He also requested that the Board review how New Jersey governs the transfer rule Mr. Thompson made a motion that the Rules and Regulation Committee review and consider adopting the regulations that California has for coaching out of season and the regs that New Jersey utilizes for Transfer Rule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried with a vote 14 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Watson, and Waterman] and 1 No [Dr. Bley].

III. Request by Laurel School District to discuss proposed charter Sussex Military Academy Path Forward

This agenda item skipped because there was no representation from the Laurel School District.

IV. Tournament Point Index Conversation/Tournament Manuals (Jeremy Jeanne)

Mr. Charles stated that all point indices are available in tournament manuals that are available online (DIAA website and Website4sports).

V. DIAA Consultant Report

Mr. Charles informed the Board that Baseball Interpreter, Dave Feron, passed away. Mr. Feron gave DIAA a lot of service and his position will have to be filled.

Mr. Charles shared an article regarding the need for increased security at tournaments because of the presence of hand guns. He noticed increased security at the Football Tournament at University of Delaware and questioned who was covering the cost of the additional police, etc. because DIAA did not.

VI. New Executive Director Update

Mr. Rodriguez informed the Board that they convened a screening panel made up of all board members and Mr. Charles and the screening committee will reconvene interviews Thursday 12/19/19. The Executive Director position is still posted and “rolling interviews” in effect.

VII. Other Items for Discussion

None

VIII. Public Comment

Trina Lelerc advocated for Coaching out of season.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm